Why the Vietnam War is Relevant Today

Moderator: Stephen Sherman, Independent Researcher, RADIX Press

Phil Jennings, author of Nam-A-Rama and The PIG™ to the Vietnam War, “From Ellsberg to Assange: The Pentagon Papers to WikiLeaks”


Bill Laurie, author of Godzilla at Khe Sanh - Myths, Hallucinations and Mirage of False History (a work in progress), “Unicorns and Dragons, American Perceptions of Viet Nam”
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March 12, 1961

U.S. Forces in Vietnam ~ 600
U.S. Forces in Laos < 500
U.S. KIA in Laos and Vietnam = 9

March 23, 1961

SC-47 Lost over Plain of Jars – 6 Crewmen KIA

April 22, 1961

SF Field Training Team (FFT-59) overrun in Laos:
  2 KIA, 2 captured (one released, the other executed)
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The Legacy of the Vietnam War

---Impact on the People of South East Asia
---Impact on the Soldiers who went there
---Impact on the U.S. Foreign Policy
  --Impact on the Citizens of the United States
---Impact on the U.S. Military Institution
---Impact on the Media
---Impact on Educational Institutions
---Impact on Entertainment Industry
---Impact on Political Discourse
"The war America never lost, but wasn't allowed to win."
—L. Brent Bozell III

The Politically Incorrect Guide™ to
THE VIETNAM WAR

From the bestselling P.I.G. series

You think you know the Vietnam War. But did you know:

✦ When we left South Vietnam we had won the war (congressional liberals later ensured that South Vietnam lost)

✦ Enemy body counts were actually underreported

✦ The United States never carpet-bombed urban areas

✦ Soviet and Chinese support for North Vietnam was even more extensive than we realized (and Ho Chi Minh was a hard core Communist, not a mere nationalist)

Phillip Jennings
Phillip Jennings
From Ellsberg to Assange:
The Pentagon Papers to WikiLeaks

Presented by Phillip Jennings
Author of:

Roger Canfield, author of Comrades In Arms: How the American Won the Vietnam War Against the Common Enemy – America

By Dr. Roger Canfield

Texas Tech, Symposium, Vietnam Center,

March 10-12, 2011, Lubbock, Texas
Excerpts from

Comrades in Arms:
How the Americong Won the Vietnam War
Against the Common Enemy—
America.

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Comrades in Arms
How the Ameri-Cong won the Vietnam War
Against the Common Enemy – America

by Roger Canfield, Ph.D.
Delusions of the Vietnam War—still displayed on the streets of Hanoi and Saigon.
Tom Wells declares in *The War Within*, “No evidence has ever been produced for foreign communist involvement in the anti-Vietnam War Movement.”
“The spontaneous antiwar movements in the US have received assistance and guidance from the friendly [No.Viet] delegations at the Paris Peace Talks….

The PCPJ [People’s Committee [sic] for Peace and Justice]…maintains relations with us…”

_Viet Cong Circular No. 33/VP/TD_ (July 1971)
The Vietnam War was a political war, a unified struggle, *dau tranh*, of politics more than arms.
Many American peace activists “worked for peace behind enemy lines” and that was of critical strategic value to Hanoi’s victory in 1975.
Many protesters openly supported the Viet Cong.
Singer Judy Collins performing at anti-Vietnam War rally, Kezar Stadium, San Francisco, 1967
Today antiwar activists are still romanticized as peace loving hippies poking flowers into gun barrels.
Flowers in gun barrels?
Hardly.

Cô gái trong đoàn biểu tình chống chiến tranh của Mỹ ở Việt Nam bắt đầu cả một hòa vẹo hồng súng của lính cảnh vệ quốc gia như một biểu tượng mong muốn hòa bình ở Việt Nam.

The girl in the demonstration against the US war in Vietnam is sticking a flower in the gun barrel of a National Guard as a symbol of praying for peace.

Une manifestante anti-guerre mettant une fleur à l'orifice du canon de fusil d'une garde nationale comme une représentation du vœux de paix au Viêtnam.
The peace movement successfully vilified America’s conduct of war as uniquely brutal, immoral and unjust like no other war.
US officials and policies were labeled Fascists, murderous
Thanh niên Thành phố San Francisco biểu tình, chặn xe của MD.Taylor, phản đối chiến tranh ở Việt Nam

The youth of San Francisco city demonstrated and blocked the car of MD Taylor to protest against the war in Vietnam
Yet once a Peace Accord was signed in Jan 1973 the top leadership of the antiwar movement shifted strategies —seeking not peace, but a communist victory. In close collaboration with Hanoi.
Germantown, Ohio Oct.26-28, 1973 in order “to clarity and to develop a coordinated strategy” for the peace movement, the Indochina Peace Campaign, IPC, held a conference.
“Delayed for a week for Tom Hayden, Jane Fonda and others to meet with VC/VN in Paris for their marching orders.”
In Paris Ly Van Sau told what political “action should be pursued”
•to cut aid to Thieu and Lon Nol,
•free 200,000 political prisoners
•overturn the Thieu regime.

This replaced a long unfocused list—only days old.
a single overriding issue, political prisoners, and a single target, members of Congress in targeted states.
200 representatives from 15 fronts attended; America Friends Service Committee, Clergy And Laity Concerned, Women Strike for Peace,
Also Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, War Resisters League, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, People’s Coalition for Peace and Justice, Fellowship of Reconciliation, SANE, Episcopal Peace Fellowship.
Bill Zimmerman’s Medical Aid to Indochina, Indochina Resource Center, Don Luce’s Indochina Mobile [tiger cage] Education Project,
International Committee to Free South Vietnamese Prisoners from Detention, Torture and Death and
Union of Vietnamese in the U.S.A
If believed to be true

Reduce the legitimacy of the southern regime

Persuade a credulous post-Watergate Congress to

Cut off all remaining aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia.
The Coalition gave cover to Hanoi’s invasion in 1975

Cared little about the massacres that followed.
Nat’l Assembly to Save the Peace demanded Congress reject ANY aid
Tom Hayden,
“Indochina has not fallen it has risen”
“How happy they must be.’

Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn,
“Overjoyed…. We spent several days celebrating, laughing and crying.”
Tom Hayden
“Outpouring of emotion for orphans and refugees” was “misdirected.”

He wanted forced repatriation of boat people, refugees.
During and after the war US peace activists received fulsome recognition including medals, rings, trophies, and public accolades.
In 1975 Le Thi Xuyen, Viet Women’s Union, wrote Arlene Eisen Bergman,

“This great victory is inseparable from your militant solidarity, assistance and support…”
“We always remember your...rallies, demonstrations, petitions, leaflets, cables, letters in protest....

We think that our victory is also yours.”
Many activists got rings purchased with American blood. Nguyen Thi Thanh gave Bill Ayers, a ring in **Toronto** at a meeting sponsored by Women’s Strike for Peace. The ring was engraved “500” for the five-hundredth American plane shot down.
Many received rings purchased with American blood and treasure--

Thirty-four US visitors to Bratislava,

Twenty visitors to Havana,

Twenty-eight in Budapest etc
Arriving in Hanoi in a Soviet plane in April 1985,

Five Americans joined the Hanoi funded,

Public commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of Communist victory in 1975.
The Americans celebrating Communist victory were:

David Dellinger,
George Wald,
John McAuliff,
Douglas Hostetter (likely) another
Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda declined Hanoi’s invitation in 1985 and any public receipt of the Ho Chi Minh Order.

Tom had been elected to the California State Assembly from Santa Monica with a sanitized resume.
The Ho Chi Minh Order is “conferred on individuals (or collectives) who have rendered great meritorious service.” such as “bravery in action against an enemy force,” Shooting down American aircraft
The Ho Chi Minh Order was a very special recognition for contributing to a Communist victory, “the revolutionary cause of the Party, State and Vietnamese nation.”
Five day after the Hanoi celebration in April 1985, Dave Dellinger joined a US commemoration in New York. Among 1,000 persons in 75 organizations. It is unknown whether anyone in New York received Ho Chi Minh medals.
However, the Viet Amb. to UN, Hoang Bich Son thanked everyone,

“We Vietnamese…are deeply indebted to our…friends …in the United States for their whole-hearted support.”

Nguyen Thi Binh, wartime rep. of the Viet Cong also sent a message.
In 1976 Cora Weiss held the English language copyright of Gen. Dung’s *Our Great Spring Victory*, on how Hanoi won the war. A copyright on a Communist victory, held by an American! Dung, “Our victory…springs from many causes [including] the help of …our friends around the world.”
Throughout the war

the peace movement largely echoed Hanoi’s current propaganda line,

and adjusted messages to battlefield conditions…
The alleged horrific treatment of political prisoners was a powerful moral issue among Americans, which if left unchallenged, was indefensible.

...It was all a fraud,

...but it worked....
Hanoi’s political war in the USA effectively limited U.S military strategy, tactics and weapons.

And the Peace movement was thrilled with the outcome in April 1975 and thereafter.
Peace was not the NYT headline
“Indochina Without Americans:
For Most a Better Life,”

The US ultimately abandoned the people of South Vietnam to a peace that
child labor, human trafficking, religious persecution, corruption, poverty.

Vietnam: Relevance Today

Until we understand the political warfare of Vietnam and of the Jihadists, we shall never achieve today’s limited counter insurgency and counterintelligence goals let alone military victory.
Today the Chinese and the Jihadists understand the value of American public opinion and politics to their war winning strategies.
Today’s protesters, Congressmen, and the media have mounted a propaganda war against our Presidents, the Patriot Act, NSA intercepts of phones of domestic terrorists and agents of foreign powers
and against

the detention and

interrogation of

enemy combatants
during war
al Qaeda training manuals tell captured terrorists to claim torture and Osama bin Laden tells us he knows the lessons of Vietnam.
Osama watches American public opinion polls and believes troop morale and political will are waning under the impact of a long war against terror.
Torture stories in the Iraq War were manufactured out of distorted versions of incidents at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and Haditha.
Guantanamo tales of the toilet and urine desecration of the Koran though proven false. Mentioned in 4,677 news stories. Yes, a few detainees were subjected to sleep deprivation, loud music, bright lights, isolation, and some held in painful positions. One case of water boarding.
Responding to distorted enemy propaganda, domestic echo chambers thoughtlessly repeat inflated allegations of U.S. atrocities, terror and torture at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and Haditha.
The Hard Questions
When does dissent become treason?
How can republics wage long wars against fanatical and bloody tyrannies when their enemies know their vulnerabilities to popular abhorrence of the barbarity of war
Consequences of a False History

Hate America

our children are taught a deconstructive history
not only of the Vietnam War, but also of a grievously flawed America.
Many do not believe America is worth defending.
Vietnam became a template for destroying, “deconstructing,” the legitimacy of ordinary patriotism through ridicule of simple acts and symbols of allegiance, the pledge, the flag, and assaulting the integrity of the nation’s leaders as universally liars, fools and war criminals.
The pervasive perception that American wages unjustly war has eroded the very legitimacy of the America’s exceptionalist claim to be the regime of liberty.
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U.S. MARINE ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND STEALS HIS LUNCH